



## **Integrated Capstone in Gerontology Learning Contract Instructions**

### **A. ABOUT GRO 679- INTEGRATED CAPSTONE IN GERONTOLOGY**

The capstone course is a culmination of the student's prior coursework and is taken towards the end of the Gerontology Program. It gives students the opportunity to utilize the hard-earned knowledge and skills they've developed as a UNCG student in a real-world setting. Many UNCG students choose to apply their efforts for their capstone project to the strategic benefit of their current agencies, while others value a new experience and complete an internship. Students who are more interested in research, may complete a comprehensive literature review or collect data for a scientific project. No matter what the student chooses, s/he will be given the chance to apply gerontological thinking and reasoning to current and emerging issues under the close supervision of a field supervisor or research mentor. Students will be responsible for completing 80 hours of supervised field experience, coursework in Canvas, and a capstone paper and oral presentation detailing their experience and how they applied what they learned as a student.

### **B. PURPOSE AND PROCESS**

The learning contract is a formal written statement of the expected educational outcomes of a field experience for your capstone project. It is intended both as a guide to planning capstone experiences and as a check on progress as the experience proceeds.

1. After completion of the Capstone Application and approval from the Gerontology Graduate Coordinator, the student should meet with a potential field supervisor/research mentor to discuss possible goals and the duties or responsibilities for accomplishing goals.
2. The student should prepare a first draft of the goals he or she wishes to achieve, methods of achieving the goals, and the way the learning outcomes will be evaluated.
3. The student will review the draft of the contract with the GRO 679 Course Director, Dr. Corinne Auman, and then with the field supervisor/research mentor to make any necessary changes.
4. Upon agreement, the student, field supervisor/research mentor, and Gerontology Graduate Coordinator will sign and date the contract. The student shall provide a copy of the signed contract to everyone.

### **C. GUIDELINES FOR WRITING THE LEARNING CONTRACT**

1. Use the Learning Contract Template posted on the Gerontology website. The contract includes:
  - a. *Educational Goal or Outcome:* Describe what you intend to learn from the capstone experience. What do you want to find out or be able to do as a result of the experience? Is your primary aim to gain, expand, apply, or test out a particular body of knowledge? Or is it to acquire or improve upon skills such as counseling, training, interviewing, advocacy, public speaking, administration, or research? Be specific. Write one sentence for each objective and start each sentence with the words "To learn..." or "To apply..." or "To practice. . ." etc.
  - b. *Methods:* Specify the activities you expect to undertake to achieve each goal. Will you observe and assist particular staff or undergo training? Will you ask your supervisors to

recommend relevant readings or attend related workshops or conferences? Will you systematically collect data for a project or survey? Will you observe or participate in staff, board, or community meetings? Will you ask certain individuals to observe you at work, and give you feedback and suggestions?

- c. *Evaluation*: Note that you will keep a daily reflective journal and write a final analytical paper and presentation.

***\*\*You may register for GRO 679 when a signed learning contract is submitted to the Gerontology Graduate Coordinator and you are granted approval\*\****



## **Integrated Capstone in Gerontology Learning Contract**

*Instructions to Student-* Complete all parts of this application (including signatures) and submit to the Gerontology Graduate Coordinator, Elise Eifert, at [ekeifert@uncg.edu](mailto:ekeifert@uncg.edu) upon completion and approval of the Integrated Capstone in Gerontology Application. Information provided will be used to establish expectations of the student for completing his/her capstone project. It should be developed with and agreed upon by the student's field supervisor or research mentor.

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### **B. APPLICATION**

An application, signed by the student and graduate coordinator, is required to determine eligibility and readiness for GRO 679. I have completed, signed, and submitted my application to the Gerontology Graduate Coordinator:

YES       NO

### **C. STUDENT INFORMATION**

Student Name (Last, First):	
Phone:	
Email:	

D. FIELD SUPERVISOR/RESEARCH MENTOR INFORMATION

Supervisor Name (Last, First):	
Agency:	
Address:	
Phone:	
Email:	

E. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

1. Semester and year of expected enrollment and completion of capstone project:

Semester:        Spring        Summer        Fall  
Year:            20

2. Which of the following will this project involve?

- Internship
- Research
- Work-related Project/Evaluation

3. Briefly describe or outline capstone project (maximum of 200 words).

- a. *Project Summary*: Please give a clear and concise description of what you plan to do for your project.
- b. *Timetable*: Please give a projected timetable for your project. Provide major benchmarks of your project and when you plan to have them completed.

(if you need more room please use the supplementary text box on the next page)

4. Write 3 professional goals to obtain through the capstone project:

**Goal 1:**

Method: (write the method you will use to accomplish your goal)

Evaluation: Journal and Capstone Paper/Presentation

**Goal 2:**

Method: (write the method you will use to accomplish your goal)

Evaluation: Journal and Capstone Paper/Presentation

**Goal 3:**

Method: (write the method you will use to accomplish your goal)

Evaluation: Journal and Capstone Paper/Presentation

F. REQUIRED SIGNATURES

<i>I, by signing below, do hereby agree to all aspects of the above-stated goals pertaining to my field experience and capstone project.</i>	
Student Signature:	Date:
<i>I, by signing below, do hereby agree to supervise or mentor a Gerontology graduate student in the accomplishment of the above-stated goals pertaining to his/her field experience and capstone project.</i>	
Field Supervisor/Research Mentor:	Date:
<i>I, by signing below, do hereby grant my permission for student to enroll in GRO 679 with the above-stated goals in mind.</i>	
Gerontology Graduate Coordinator:	Date: